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SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [IZ](#) [IT](#) [NATO](#)

SUBJECT: ITALIAN CONCEPT PAPER FOR THE INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON IRAQ

Classified By: Pol M/C Thomas Countryman, Reason 1.4 (b) and (d)

1. (C) Summary. Pol M/C met with MFA Office Director for the Gulf States Luigi Maccotta on October 29 to discuss Iraqi PM Allawi's November 3-4 visit to Rome and the upcoming international conference on Iraq in Egypt. Maccotta had requested the meeting to present Italy's non-paper for the conference, reprinted in paragraph 5 below. End summary.

2. (C) Maccotta briefed Pol M/C October 29 on an Italian non-paper outlining Italian objectives for the upcoming international conference on Iraq in Cairo. Maccotta said Italian Foreign Minister Frattini had discussed the non-paper with his Iraqi and Egyptian counterparts. FM Zibari's suggestion for dealing with the question of representation of other political actors at the conference was that the final communiqu  should encourage the Iraqi government to convene a broad meeting of political parties to brief them on the outcomes of the conference.

3. (C) Commenting on the Egyptian draft communiqu , Maccotta said that it was satisfactory but should draw on more of the ideas outlined in the Italian non-paper, especially regarding 1) ownership of the political process and the domestic security situation; 2) the need for regional and neighboring states to take on more responsibility for controlling their own borders in order to stabilize the security situation; and 3) the need for the UN to mobilize its efforts to provide election support.

4. (C) Maccotta also provided Pol M/C with Allawi's tentative schedule, which includes a dinner hosted by FM Frattini November 3, followed by a working meeting with PM Berlusconi (attended also by FMs Zibari and Frattini) and a call on Pope John Paul II on November 4. PM Allawi will then attend a lunch at which he will address Italian businessmen, followed by press availability, before departing Italy the afternoon of November 4. The Iraqi Minister of Planning will have a separate meeting with Treasury Minister Siniscalco.

5. (C) Begin text of Italian non-paper.

Objective:

The International Conference should aim at the full implementation of UNSC resolution 1546, and mainly at easing the completion of the internal political process through the continuing involvement of the international community in supporting Iraqi ownership and the constructive engagement of neighboring countries.

Agenda:

The agenda should be short and focused on political transition and regional security;
Security should be recognized as a common concern with different perceptions, which has to be discussed in a non-confrontational manner.

Participants:

This is a matter which should be mainly decided by the IIG, in a spirit of inclusiveness;
It could be useful to consider the invitation of members of the interim National Council. The Iraqi Government could be encouraged to organize a meeting to be held in Iraq with relevant religious organizations and representatives of Iraqi civil society to share the results of the Conference.

Outcome:

As an immediate result, the Conference should send a strong signal that elections in Iraq will take place as scheduled by the end of January 2005, in order to complete the full transition to democracy as foreseen in December 2006.

The Conference should aim at promoting the conditions for a more pro-active role by UN as stipulated in resolution 1546. The initiatives of other International and Regional Organizations invited in Iraq by the IIG (Arab League, OIC, EU, NATO, OSCE, etc.) should complement the UN role in the political process endorsed by UNSC resolution 1546.

The Conference should encourage neighboring countries to

support IIG efforts to neutralize those forces (insurgents including former regime elements, foreign fighters, illegal militias) whose violence is undermining the political process in Iraq, by exerting strict control of their borders in a spirit of cooperative security.

The Conference should assist the new Iraqi leaders to thoroughly illustrate the way they intend to take security in their own hands by:

- seeking the reconstruction of the Iraqi security forces at a level consistent with their legitimate national security needs, on the understanding that the pace of such process directly affects the exit strategy for international stabilization forces;

- adhering, as soon as conditions are in place, to the Chemical Weapons Convention and to the IAEA Additional Protocol;

- cooperating with neighbors in the effective prevention and prosecution of all illegal cross-border activities, in particular those that support terrorism and organized crime and endanger regional security.

The Conference should lay the foundations for a regional program of confidence building measures aimed at promoting mutual trust and dispel concerns on Iraq, including:

- exchange of security information among neighboring countries;

- reassurances on the temporary nature of the stationing of foreign forces, as a component of the stabilization process.

Within this framework, the possibility of establishing on a non-discriminatory basis, a quote Group of Friends of Iraq unquote, to accompany and support progress in political transition and good-neighborliness, may be explored, having regard to the need to preserve Iraqi ownership.

A follow-up international meeting, before the June 2005 MNF mandate review should be considered.

End text.

Baghdad Minimize Considered

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